



H.R. 1464 – TO ASSIST IN THE CONSERVATION OF RARE FELIDS AND RARE CANIDS BY SUPPORTING AND PROVIDING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OF NATIONS WITHIN THE RANGE OF RARE FELID AND RARE CANID POPULATIONS AND PROJECTS OF PERSONS WITH DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN THE CONSERVATION OF RARE FELID AND RARE CANID POPULATIONS

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1464 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Tom Udall (D-NM) on March 9, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, on April 30, 2008.

H.R. 1464 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on Monday, May 19, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1464 seeks to restore and perpetuate the populations of qualified canines and felines into the wild through providing financial resources to foreign and domestic programs seeking to restore these populations.

H.R. 1464 is intended to protect canine and feline species as defined by the Red List of Threatened Species, which includes species like the grey wolf, the African Wild dog, lions, jaguars, and cheetahs.

The bill establishes the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund. The Secretary of the Interior may use the amounts in this Fund to provide financial assistance to national and international projects to preserve rare and wild species of canines and felines. Deposits made into the Fund will be transferred from amounts appropriated by Congress and from donations made to the Fund by the public through internet and publication resources made available by the Department of the Interior.

To qualify for funds made available by this legislation, an applicant must be a person or group that has demonstrated experience and expertise required to further the conservation of rare canines and felines in the wild. The applicant must also live in a country that has rare or endangered species within its boundaries.

Additionally, applicants for funding must submit a project proposal that includes an estimation of the funds and time required for the completion of the preservation project, as well as a description of the project's purpose. Applicants may need to submit additional information that the Secretary considers necessary when evaluating funding requests. The Secretary is required to notify an applicant of their requests approval or disapproval within 180 days of receiving an application for funding, and must have consulted with the appropriate Federal agencies in making the decision. The Secretary must also give preference to projects that include some degree of matching funds programs.

The bill does not allow funds to be used for captive breeding and display (such as a zoo) of rare and wild canines and felines. However, funds may be used for captive breeding of a species for release into the wild. Additionally, the bill does not allow funding for preservation programs in Iran, Syria, Cuba, Sudan, and North Korea.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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Applicants that receive funding must report to the Secretary as required, and these reports must be made available to the public. Also, the Secretary may appoint an advisory council of public and private organizations involved in the conservation of rare canines and felines to hold public meetings to assist and inform groups interested in applying for funds through this legislation.

The Secretary must report to Congress on the rare and wild feline and canine species conservation progress that has been made within two years of enactment of this legislation.

The bill authorizes \$5,000,000 to be transferred to the Fund for fiscal years 2009-2013, and such sums as may be necessary to complete the Secretary's required report to Congress.

BACKGROUND

The IUCN Red List of threatened species is a compiled list of species that have undergone an extinction risk assessment using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. These species assessments are made at the global and regional levels. The IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network. It is a democratic membership union with more than one thousand government and non-governmental organizations and approximately ten thousand volunteer scientists from over 160 countries as members.

The IUCN has reported global population reductions between 30-50 percent over the past two decades as well as similar statistics for rare wild canines.

[IUCN Red List website](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office "estimates that implementing H.R. 1464 would increase discretionary spending by \$19 million over the 2009-2013 period and by \$1 million after 2013."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 1464](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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